

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Commissioner's Office

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education approve the request of the Shoreham Elementary School to waive, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1071(a)(1), one student attendance day for the 2009-2010 school year?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education approve the request of the Shoreham Elementary School to waive, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1071(a)(1), one student attendance day for the 2009-2010 school year.

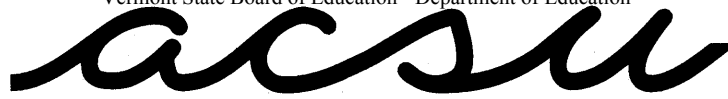
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16. V.S.A. § 1071; SBE Rule 2300

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In a letter from Superintendent Wm. Lee Sease on behalf of the Shoreham Elementary School, a request has been received to waive one student attendance day for the 2009-2010 school year. On April 6, 2010 a structure next to the school burned, forcing the school to be closed on April 7, 2010. The school was able to re-open the next day. In addition, because of mold and asbestos abatement work in the fall of 2009 the school was forced to begin the school year seven days late. At this point, all of the missed fall days have been made up. The school has made a good faith effort to hold to the 175-day requirement for the school year. It is the recommendation of the commissioner that the Board support the request to waive the one student day (4-7-2010).

COST IMPLICATIONS: None

STAFF AVAILABLE: Armando Vilaseca; Mark Oettinger



ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

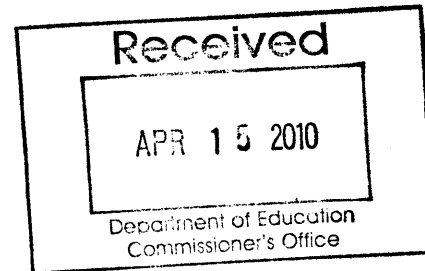
April 13, 2010

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Armando Vilaseca
Commissioner of Education
Vermont Department of Education
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Dear Commissioner Vilaseca:

Wm. Lee Sease
Superintendent

Janice J. Willey
Associate
Superintendent

Josh Blumberg
Director of Information
Technology Services

Sharon L. Stearns
Business Manager

Vicki A. Wells, Ed.D
Director of
Student Services

Warren Uzzle
Secondary Student
Services and School
Facilities Director

I am writing to request that the State Board of Education grant a waiver to the Shoreham Elementary School regarding the requirements of T. 16 § 1071(a) (1) which states that a school year is comprised of at least one hundred seventy-five student attendance days.

On April 7, 2010, the Shoreham Elementary School found it necessary to close due to the burning of a building adjacent to the school. The fire made it impossible and dangerous for students to be on school grounds.

In addition, the Shoreham Elementary School was forced to begin school seven days later than scheduled due to mold and asbestos abatement. These days have been made up at times when school was not in session for other districts in the Addison Central Supervisory Union. The following make-up days have occurred: October 22nd, October 23rd, November 13th, November 25th, January 22nd and March 12th. The final make-up day will be May 14th.

To make up for another unanticipated closing seems to place an undue hardship on the students and families of Shoreham. T.16 §1071(c) grants the school the opportunity to petition the state board for a waiver of the requirements of T.16 § 1071(a)(1). On behalf of the Shoreham School District, I respectfully request that the state board waive the requirements of this statute by allowing the Shoreham Elementary School to consider April 7, 2010 a non-student attendance day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wm Lee Sease'.

Wm. Lee Sease,
Superintendent of Schools

Equal
Opportunity
Employer

Copy Heather Best, Principal
Elizabeth Christensen, Board Chair